IN THE CLAIMS:

1. (Currently Amended) A method of communicating a ~~variable length~~ mobile network code (MNC) from a mobile communications network to a mobile station, the method comprising:

transmitting a message comprising at least one of a first field and a second field, <u>wherein the MNC has a variable length, and</u> wherein the first field indicates whether <u>the length of</u> the MNC is greater than a fixed length.

2. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the first field further indicates whether the second field is included in the message.

3. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein when the network supports the MNC <u>having length</u> greater than the fixed length, the first field is set to a first logic level to indicate that the second field is included.

4. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein when the network supports the MNC <u>having length</u> not greater than the fixed length, the first field is set to a second logic level to indicate that the second field is not included.

5. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the second field comprises ~~a first part of the MNC~~ <u>at least a least significant digit of the MNC</u>.

6. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 5, wherein the ~~first part comprises a~~ least significant digit of the MNC is <u>IMSI_10</u>.

7. (Original) The method of claim 6, wherein most significant digits of the MNC are transmitted to the mobile station in a third field.

8. (Original) The method of claim 7, wherein upon receiving the second field and the third field, the mobile terminal determines a first value of MNC supported by the network and compares the first value of MNC with a second value of MNC stored in the mobile terminal.

9. (Original) The method of claim 8, wherein if the first value is different from the second value then the mobile terminal is roaming.

10. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the message is sent over at least one of a paging channel and a broadcast control channel (BCCH).

11. (Original) The method of claim 10, wherein the message is an extended system parameters message (ESPM).

12. (Original) The method of claim 10, wherein the message is an ANSI-41 system parameters message (A41SPM).

13. (Original) The method of claim 10, wherein the message is a MC-RR parameters message (MCRRPM).

14. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 5, wherein value of the <u>least significant digit of the MNC</u> ~~first part~~ is determined based on an association between a decimal value and a binary value.

15. (Original) The method of claim 14, wherein the binary value comprises 4 bits.

16. (Currently Amended) A method of supporting a variable length mobile network code (MNC) in a mobile terminal, the method comprising:

<u>a mobile station(MS)</u> receiving a first value representing a mobile network code of a fixed length from a network; and

<u>the MS</u> receiving a second value which identifies whether <u>the length of</u> the MNC is greater than the fixed length,

wherein <u>if the second value is equal to a first logic level, the MS identifies that</u> ~~if~~ the network supports the MNC <u>having length</u> greater than the fixed length~~, then the second value is equal to a first logic level to indicate that a third value will be sent from the network~~.

17. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 16, <u>wherein the second value further indicates whether a third value is sent from the network,</u>

<u>and wherein if the second value is equal to the first logic level, the method</u> further ~~comprising~~<u>comprises</u>:

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receiving the third value from the network; and

determining the MNC value based on the first and third values.

18. (Original) The method of claim 16, wherein the first value comprises the most significant digits of the MNC.

19. (Currently Amended) The method of claim ~~16~~ 17, wherein the ~~second~~ third value comprises at least the least significant digit of the MNC.

20. (Original) The method of claim 17, further comprising:

comparing the MNC value with a stored MNC value to determine a roaming status.

21. ~ 26. (Cancelled)

27. (Currently Amended) The method of claim ~~21~~ 1, wherein the mobile station is associated with an international mobile station identity (IMSI), wherein the IMSI comprising a mobile country code (MCC) field, a IMSI_11_12 field, and a IMSI_S field, wherein at least one of the IMSI_11_12 field and the IMSI_S field comprise the MNC, and wherein when the first field indicates that the length of the MNC is greater than the fixed length, the network extracts a first part of the MNC from the IMSI_11_12 field and a second part of the MNC from a most significant position of IMSI_S field.

28. (Currently Amended) ~~The~~ <u>A</u> method of extracting ~~an MNC~~ <u>a mobile network code</u> <u>(MNC)</u> from ~~IMSI~~ <u>an international mobile station identity (IMSI)</u> identifying a mobile station, the method comprising:

determining whether <u>a length of</u> the MNC is greater than a fixed length based on a value of an indicator field included in a message transmitted from the mobile station;

reading first most significant digits of MNC from a first field of the IMSI;

reading least most significant digit of MNC from a most significant position of a second field of the IMSI, when the indicator field is set; and

calculating the MNC based on values in the first and second fields of the IMSI.

29. (Original) The method of claim 28, wherein the calculating comprises converting most significant digits of MNC from decimal to binary.

30. (New) The method of claim 7, wherein the third field is an IMSI_10_11.